

To Re-Connect Artists with their Audiences, KCET Announces New On-Air and Online Initiative SOUTHLAND SESSIONS Celebrating Creativity and Spirit of Los Angeles' Arts and Cultural Communities

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*With City's Art Scene Forever Transformed, New Series Celebrates
Resiliency of the Creative Community Featuring Diverse Array of Content from the
Best of Local Arts and Culture,
Ranging from Local Music and Dance to Poetry and Visual Arts*



For downloadable artwork, please visit kcet.org/pressroom

kcet.org/SouthlandSessions

Select programming will also be available for streaming on PBS platforms, including PBS.org and the free PBS Video App, available on iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV and Chromecast.

Burbank, Calif. – June 17, 2020 – KCET, Southern California's home for award-winning public media programming, today announced **SOUTHLAND SESSIONS**, a new weekly series that will allow the Los Angeles community to experience their regional arts and cultural institutions in this unique moment, when attending in-person, cultural events is not an option. As regional artists adapt to an uncertain future due to the current pandemic and the influence of social uprisings across the country, the new broadcast and digital initiative draws together prominent voices from around Southern California for up-close, virtual “sessions.” Every Wednesday, viewers will witness artists inspire audiences with a front-row seat to the creative process, guided by the community’s arts leaders. The new series kicks off with a conversation among key cultural leaders from around the city, working together to discuss how arts and culture are essential to Angelenos. **SOUTHLAND SESSIONS** premieres on **Wednesday, July 15 at 8 p.m. PT on KCET** and will run through the end of the year.

SOUTHLAND SESSIONS will engage viewers across Southern California who are staying at home to stop the spread of coronavirus – an order that has changed the lives of everyone, and impacted the futures of auditoriums, concert halls, and art galleries across the region. The series will vary in format on a weekly basis showcasing a variety of artistic communities and programs across the city. KCET has collaborated with the **City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)** and the **Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture** to identify much of the new content and themes included in the series. Episodes will feature diverse arts and cultural events, including DCA’s **City of Los Angeles (COLA) Individual Artist Fellowships**, **Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival**, and the annual **Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival**. The format will be a compilation of artist disciplines including music, dance, theater, spoken word, and poetry, capturing the immediacy of the region’s artists’ response to COVID-19 and the racial as well as social injustices that are happening across the city and the nation.

In addition to the conversation with civic arts leaders across Los Angeles, upcoming episodes will feature the tradition of mariachi music in Los Angeles, the diverse dance community of the city, and a personal tour of DCA’s COLA program with local artists exhibiting their work through at-home interviews and virtual studio visits. Several of the episodes will be produced in partnership with community cultural leaders including online cultural trendsetting radio station **dublab**, avant-garde opera company **The Industry**, artist/designer/writer **Rosten Woo**, San Fernando Valley’s performing arts center **The Soraya** on the CSUN campus, Orange County’s **Pacific Symphony** and many more. Later this year, KCET will put out a call for regional artists to submit their own content for future episodes.

The vibrancy and dynamism of L.A.’s arts and cultural scene will also be reflected online through a robust digital hub where viewers can find the creative community’s most engaging, uplifting content. Musical performances, dance presentations, poetry

readings, art exhibitions, and more will be featured. Alongside these virtual presentations, local culture journalists will keep readers abreast of all things related to arts and culture in the time of pandemic and protest through artist profiles, gallery interviews, feature pieces, and arts news briefs. The **SOUTHLAND SESSIONS** digital destination will also include resources and how-to's detailing financial support and advice from other artists with ways to connect to gallerists, curators, and more. The city's creative community will also have an opportunity to show their work to a broader audience through KCET's call for submissions, which can be found at kcet.org/SouthlandSessions.

Guided by the various art forms and themes highlighted in the new Wednesday night programming, KCET will also provide virtual audience engagement opportunities including live streaming events, discussions, arts classes/demonstrations, and more.

The new series **SOUTHLAND SESSIONS** will launch a robust Wednesday night of programming for KCET designed to highlight the resilience of the arts community. Under the theme "**Create Wednesday**," the schedule will also feature popular Arts and Culture programs that have previously aired on KCET and PBS that include KCET's Emmy® award-winning Original arts series **ARTBOUND** and student film showcase **FINE CUT** as well as America's preeminent performing arts television series from PBS, **GREAT PERFORMANCES**. Like the new local series **SOUTHLAND SESSIONS**, the programming lineup for the night will feature diverse artistic innovation across all media and disciplines to celebrate art as an essential service.

The goal of the new programming lineup is to highlight Southern California as home to one of the most important cultural communities in the world. In addition to providing healing and solace to many, Los Angeles' arts and cultural scene is a major source of income to millions in the local economy. Art and culture in Los Angeles is indelibly interwoven into the fabric of Southern California's economic landscape and has an undeniably important role in shaping not only the culture of the region but also acts as a powerful economic driver for the state and the rest of the nation.

For updates, follow @KCET and #SouthlandSessions and #CreateWednesday on social media.

ABOUT KCET

On-air, online and in the community, KCET plays a vital role in the cultural and educational enrichment of Southern and Central California. KCET offers a wide range of award-winning local programming as well as the finest public television programs from around the world. Throughout its 54-year history, KCET has won hundreds of major awards for its local and regional news and public affairs programming, its national drama and documentary productions, its quality educational family and children's programs, its outreach and community services and its website, kcet.org. KCET is a donor-supported community institution. For additional information about KCET productions, web-exclusive content, programming schedules and community events,

please visit kcet.org. Select original programming from KCET is also available for streaming on Apple TV, YouTube, Amazon and Roku platforms. For more information please visit kcet.org/apps. KCET is a content channel of the Public Media Group of Southern California.

About the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

As a leading, progressive arts and cultural agency, DCA empowers Los Angeles’s vibrant communities by supporting and providing access to quality visual, design, literary, musical, performing, and educational arts programming; managing vital cultural centers; preserving historic sites; creating public art; and funding services provided by arts organizations and individual artists. Formed in 1925, DCA promotes arts and culture as a way to ignite a powerful dialogue, engage LA’s residents and visitors, and ensure LA’s varied cultures are recognized, acknowledged, and experienced. DCA’s mission is to strengthen the quality of life in Los Angeles by stimulating and supporting arts and cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts for residents and visitors alike. DCA advances the social and economic impact of arts and culture through grantmaking, public art, community arts, performing arts, and strategic marketing, development, design, and digital research. DCA creates and supports arts programming, maximizing relationships with other city agencies, artists, and arts and cultural nonprofit organizations to provide excellent service in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles. For more information, please visit culturela.org or follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/culturela, Instagram @culture_la, and Twitter @culture_la.

About the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture

The mission of the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture is to advance arts, culture, and creativity throughout LA County. We provide leadership, services, and support in areas including grants and technical assistance for nonprofit organizations, countywide arts education initiatives, commissioning and care for civic art collections, research, and evaluation, access to creative pathways, professional development, free community programs, and cross-sector creative strategies that address civic issues. All of this work is framed by our longstanding commitment to fostering access to the arts, and the County’s Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative.

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